



PRESS RELEASE

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CROSS PLAINS MAN SENTENCED TO 12 MONTHS FOR IDENTITY THEFT

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Thomas Kobinsky, DOB 11-17-55, of Cross Plains, Wisconsin, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison to 12 months in prison for using the means of identification of another person with the intent to commit unlawful activity. U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz also ordered Kobinsky to pay a \$2,000 fine and to pay restitution in the amount of \$696 to the victim in the case. Kobinsky was ordered to report to the Bureau of Prisons on July 25, 2005, to begin serving his sentence.

Kobinsky pleaded guilty to this charge on April 15, 2005. At the plea hearing, he admitted that he engaged in a campaign of harassment against the victim following an altercation that occurred in Spring 2004. The victim lives adjacent to a soccer field, and Kobinsky held a grudge against the victim based on an incident when the victim swore at a minor soccer player.

On September 17, 2004, Kobinsky left a message on the victim's home answering machine. Calling the victim by name, Kobinsky said "beware," and warned the victim

to expect unwanted deliveries, a disconnection of power to the victim's residence, and arrest warrants for the victim and the victim's spouse.

From September 2004 until his arrest in January 2005, Kobinsky caused the victim and the victim's spouse to receive a flood of unauthorized and unsolicited mail, publications, C.O.D. shipments of goods, and telephone calls. In addition, Kobinsky made unauthorized applications for a bank loan, credit card, and an on-line trading account in the names of the victim and the victim's spouse. Kobinsky also caused an announcement to be placed in a local newspaper that falsely announced the victim was starting a new business.

This conviction is the result of an investigation conducted by the Dane County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Secret Service. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Acting United States Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott.

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